Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 29 and ending on page 12, line 8, with the following paragraph:

The above waveform dependence of the gain can be maintained at a constant level irrespective of a variation in the input power by the feedback loop including the light splitting coupler 12, the photodiode 13, the ALC circuit 14 and the variable attenuator 11. The split light from the beam splitting coupler 12 is applied to the photodiode 13, which generates an electric signal corresponding to the light level. The above electric signal is applied to the variable attenuator 11, and the amount of attenuation caused therein is varied on the basis of the light level detected by the photodiode 13. In this manner, the light output level of the second-stage amplifier 2 can be maintained at a constant level. The variable attenuator 11 may be formed by using a Faraday rotator or the electro-optical effect of a lithium niobate ($LiNbO_3$) crystal.

Please REPLACE the paragraphs beginning at page 23, line 13 and ending on line 38, with the following paragraphs:

The first-stage amplifier 1B, which has a gain vs wavelength characteristic as shown in part (a) of Fig. 2, has a forward-direction photodiode 20_1, which detects a spontaneous emission (SE) leaking from the side surface of the Er-doped optical fiber 7. The AGC circuit 6_1 is supplied with the output signal of the photodiode 20_1 and controls the pump power of the pump source 9_1 so that the spontaneous emission can be maintained at a predetermined constant level. As a result of the AGC control, the gain of the front-stage amplifier 1B can be maintained at the predetermined constant value.

Similarly, the second-stage amplifier 2B, which has a gain vs wavelength characteristic as shown in part (b) of Fig. 2, has a forward-direction photodiode 20_2, which detects the spontaneous emission leaking from a side surface of the Er-doped optical fiber 8. The AGC circuit 6_2 is supplied with the output signal of the photodiode 20_2 and controls the pump power of the pump source 9_2 so that the spontaneous emission can be maintained at a predetermined constant level. As a result of the above AGC control, the gain of the second-stage amplifier 2B can be maintained at the predetermined constant level.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 32 and ending on page 28, line 5, with the following paragraph: